

# 2004 Wisconsin Bear Hunting Regulations



## Season Dates

**Zone C and the portion of Zone A  
where dogs *are not* permitted:**

**September 8–October 12**

**Subzone A1, Zone B and the portion of  
Zone A where dogs *are* permitted:**

**September 8 – September 14**

- with aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

**September 15 – October 5**

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with other methods

**October 6 – October 12**

- with aid of dogs only

**Visit the DNR website at  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)**

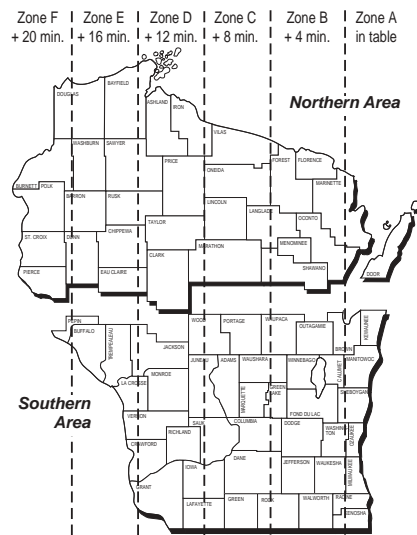


Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

**PUB-WM-197 2003**

## Hunting Hours

To determine the opening (A.M.) and closing (P.M.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



Northern Area Hours					Southern Area Hours				
September 2004									
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.					
8	5:50	7:34	5:52	7:34					
9	5:52	7:32	5:53	7:32					
10	5:53	7:30	5:54	7:30					
11	5:54	7:28	5:56	7:29					
12	5:55	7:26	5:57	7:27					
13	5:57	7:24	5:58	7:25					
14	5:58	7:22	5:59	7:23					
15	5:59	7:20	6:00	7:21					
16	6:00	7:18	6:01	7:19					
17	6:01	7:17	6:02	7:18					
18	6:03	7:15	6:04	7:16					
19	6:04	7:13	6:05	7:14					
20	6:05	7:11	6:06	7:12					
21	6:06	7:09	6:07	7:10					
22	6:08	7:07	6:08	7:08					
23	6:09	7:05	6:09	7:07					
24	6:10	7:03	6:10	7:05					
25	6:11	7:01	6:11	7:03					
26	6:13	6:59	6:13	7:01					
27	6:14	6:57	6:14	6:59					
28	6:15	6:55	6:15	6:57					
29	6:16	6:53	6:16	6:56					
30	6:18	6:51	6:17	6:54					
October 2004									
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.					
1	6:19	6:49	6:18	6:52					
2	6:20	6:48	6:20	6:50					
3	6:22	6:46	6:21	6:48					
4	6:23	6:44	6:22	6:47					
5	6:24	6:42	6:23	6:45					
6	6:25	6:40	6:24	6:43					
7	6:27	6:38	6:25	6:41					
8	6:28	6:36	6:27	6:40					
9	6:29	6:34	6:28	6:38					
10	6:31	6:33	6:29	6:36					
11	6:32	6:31	6:30	6:34					
12	6:33	6:29	6:31	6:33					

## DNR Field Stations

Office hours may vary by location. Contact center for information on office hours.

<b>South Central Region (Fitchburg)</b> .....	<b>608/275-3266</b>
Madison .....	608/266-2621
Dodgeville .....	608/935-3368
Horicon .....	920/387-7860
Janesville .....	608/743-4800
Poynette .....	608/635-8110
<b>Southeast Region (Milwaukee)</b> .....	<b>414/263-8500</b>
Plymouth .....	920/892-8756
Sturtevant .....	262/884-2300
Waukesha .....	262/574-2100
<b>Northeast Region (Green Bay)</b> .....	<b>920/492-5800</b>
Oshkosh .....	920/424-3050
Peshtigo .....	715/582-5000
Sturgeon Bay .....	920/746-2860
Wautoma .....	920/787-4686
<b>West Central Region (Eau Claire)</b> .....	<b>715/839-3700</b>
Baldwin .....	715/684-2914
Black River Falls .....	715/284-1400
La Crosse .....	608/785-9000
Wausau .....	715/359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids .....	715/421-7800
<b>Northern Region</b>	
Antigo .....	715/627-4317
Ashland .....	715/685-2900
Cumberland .....	715/822-3590
Park Falls .....	715/762-3204
Hayward .....	715/634-2688
Ladysmith .....	715/532-3911
Rhineland .....	715/365-8900
Spooner .....	715/635-2101
Superior .....	715/392-7988
Woodruff .....	715/356-5211

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### **Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,**

*The history of the modern bear movement is relatively short, dating back only to the closed season of 1985. During that time bear hunters, citizens who live in bear country, and the DNR have continued to work together to manage this valuable resource.*

*In the late 1990's bear numbers were slightly above goal throughout much of the state. The DNR, backed by major bear hunting associations including the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association and the Bear Committee of the Conservation Congress made a conscious decision to get to goal, but to do it with a soft landing. Permit numbers were raised over a number of years. High permit levels have two consequences, hunters may not wait as long for a permit, but when a hunter is successful in drawing they'll find more competition out there.*

*More bears are calling Zone C home, but humans have increased their tolerance for bears, so we took a different tact and raised the goal from 800 to 1,200 bears in this zone. Zone B continues to the model population staying close to goal throughout this time. Our work is paying off and we are close to having all units at goal. A drought year made bears more visible, and citizen complaints increased, but an increased education of living with bears as well as continuing to manage numbers at a reasonable level will ensure satisfaction for all groups.*

*This year we see two significant changes in our bear management in the state of Wisconsin. First, the governor signed into law on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 the ability for bear hunters to transfer their Class A bear license to a youth hunter. This is a great opportunity for youth hunters to get a chance to harvest an animal, without having to wait the 5-7 years it often takes to draw a permit. The second change is the removal of the "no dog zone" in unit B.*

*As we increase our years of managed harvest we increase our knowledge base. There will always be some unknowns, but we are getting closer to a stage of fine tuning each year. Permit levels and the number of other hunters you bump into shouldn't vary a lot over the next several years. As we always do, citizens and the DNR count on bear hunters to be the active arm of management. Thank you for the privilege of working with this premier game species in a great state. And thank you for all the passion and zeal you bring to your quest for knowledge and thrill of the hunt.*

*Sincerely,*

*Michele Windsor*

*Acting Deer, Bear, and Elk Specialist*

## **New for 2004**

- The area in Zone B, where hunting with dogs was prohibited, has been eliminated (see map).
- Muzzle-loading handguns may now be used for hunting bear, please review minimum requirements under the 'Firearm and Archery Restrictions' section.
- Class A bear hunting license may be transferred from an adult to a youth hunter ages 12 – 17. See section on license transfer in this pamphlet for more details.

## **Licenses and Permits**

### **To apply for a Class A bear license or bear preference point for the 2005 Season**

- Applicants must pay a \$3.00 application fee, complete and submit the Class A Bear Hunting License/Preference Point Application by January 14, 2005.
- Applicants can apply for either a preference point (*Category 1- Class A License Refusal and Preference Acceptance*) or a license (*Category 2- Receive Class A License*). If you do not plan to purchase a license, do not choose Category 2— **if selected, you will lose your preference points even if you do not purchase your Class A License.**

### **Class B License**

#### **(Residents: \$14, Non-residents: \$110)**

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license is required to *assist* a Class A bear harvest license holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. A Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

### **Class A License**

#### **(Residents: \$45, Non-Residents: \$251)**

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A bear license allows the holder to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

### **Bear Hunting Back Tag**

A bear hunting Back Tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear,

training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. The back tag must be attached to the center of the back of the outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn while baiting bears.

### **Permit Issuance**

The number of bear permits available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A permit. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a class A permit. Hunters must apply at least every three years to retain their preference points.

### **Bear Class A License Transfer**

An adult may now transfer their Class A bear license to a youth ages 12 – 17, provided the youth successfully completes a hunter's education course prior to the bear hunting season and that the transfer takes place by the August 1 prior to the bear hunting season. The youth receiving the license will retain his or her accumulated preference points. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred license once. If you wish to transfer your class A license, please contact your local DNR service center for more information. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR service centers or on-line at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us).

## **Bear Hunting Management Zones**

- **Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A.**

Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, the State Administrative Code requires that hunters with zone A licenses be allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.

### **Questions?**

For updated season & license information call the WI DNR Hunting License & Season Information Line.

**1-800-282-0367**



Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with a .22 or 5 mm rim-fire rifle, .17 caliber center-fire rifle, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- Use handguns other than muzzleloading handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5 inches measured from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Muzzle-loading handguns unless it is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech face and fire a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains.
- Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting, any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under DNR permit) or poisoned, drugged or explosive tipped arrow.
- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway’s center.
- Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway’s center.

This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.

*Note: Class A disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.*

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. (Research has provided us with a general guideline for distinguishing adult bears from cubs. **Note: State Administrative code has defined an adult bear as a bear 42 inches or greater in length, as measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you’re not sure, don’t shoot!*
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Baiting

As a result of legislation and administrative rules adopted after the printing of this publication, new bear baiting regulations may go into effect prior to the 2004 bear hunting season. Therefor, please check with your local DNR service center to verify what rules are in place prior to placing bait. The regulations below are those in effect at the date of publication.

It is illegal to:

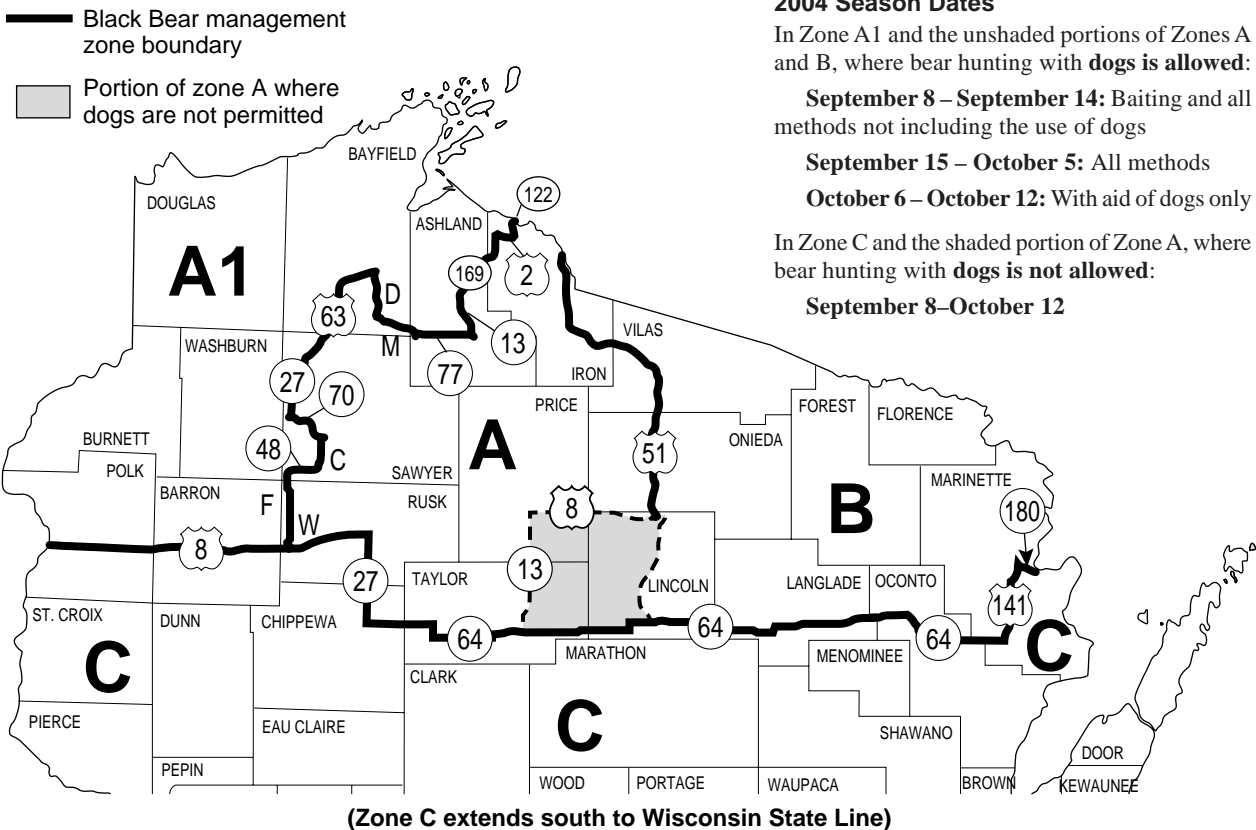
- a. place, use or hunt over bait contained within or containing metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood (other than hollow stumps) or other nondegradable materials.
- b. use any baiting material, liquid or scent for attracting wild animals containing honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat (which includes bacon grease) or parts of animal carcasses.
- c. place or hunt over baiting material, liquid or scent within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public.
- d. hunt over baiting material, liquid or scent during the archery season without possessing a valid, unused bear harvest permit or archery deer tag.
- e. use or hunt over a baited area containing more than 10 gallons of bait material or liquid scent.

**Note:** You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices.

It is illegal to:

- hunt or pursue animals, or train dogs, in an area baited in violation of a, b, or e (above) from July 1 through January 1 unless the area is completely free of baiting material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

Bear Hunting Management Zones Map



2004 Season Dates

In Zone A1 and the unshaded portions of Zones A and B, where bear hunting with **dogs is allowed**:

**September 8 – September 14:** Baiting and all methods not including the use of dogs

**September 15 – October 5:** All methods

**October 6 – October 12:** With aid of dogs only

In Zone C and the shaded portion of Zone A, where bear hunting with **dogs is not allowed**:

**September 8–October 12**

Tagging and Registration

- Immediately upon killing, and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag. Immediately following validation, the carcass tag shall be attached to the bear at any location on the bear.
- If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to the hide and both hide and carcass should be displayed at registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed **and** within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after the kill. See Internet for a list of registration stations ([www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us)).
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person’s unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.  
**Note:** Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state.

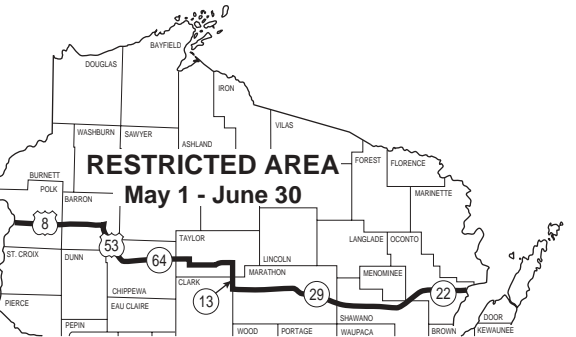
**Support Ethical Responsible Hunting**  
**Report Violations**  
**Call 1-800-847-9367**  
**1-800-TIP-WDNR**  
Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential  
(This is not an information number.)  
*Conservation wardens may enter private lands while performing their duties.*

Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs, except in subzone A1 and the non-shaded portion of zone A of the bear hunting management zones map during the season for dogs.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear **except from July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- Train dogs on DNR lands, from April 15 through July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except on Class 1 field trial grounds or for bear dog training on DNR lands other than state parks after July 1.
- Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags or dog license tags for each dog.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn’t wearing a collar with the owner’s name and address attached.
- Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog’s ownership.  
**Note: Dogs may be replaced that fall out of the chase, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.**

- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, except for approved dog trials and training under a hound dog trial or training license.



If not in possession of a Class A bear hunting license, a Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating a bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Bear Population and Harvest Trends: 1988–2003

